

legislation to make it easier for people to have insurance.

Rather than impose government mandates and create more bureaucracy, Republicans are getting government out of Americans' lives so they can do more for their families, children, and communities.

This Republican Congress is historic because we are keeping our commitments to the American people to end business as usual in Washington.

#### DEMOCRATS STAND WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT; REPUBLICANS RUN AWAY FROM IT

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, evidently today we will vote on an antiterrorism bill. No one knows what is in it. The Committee on Rules passed a blank check bill. It has not even been printed, but we know one thing for sure.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I will be glad to tell him what is in it.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I will yield only on the gentleman's time. I am going to say what I think, and he can tell everyone what is in it.

We know what will not be in it: the two things law enforcement requested, roving multipoint wiretaps and taggants to trace black powder explosives. These are the two things that law enforcement wanted. These are the two things the Republican majority will not put in this bill.

It is a rerun of the last antiterrorism bill, where they could not bring themselves to do what the law enforcement people wanted. There has been a big reversal, my fellow Americans. Democrats stand with law enforcement, Republicans are running away from it.

The bill today will be a weak Milque-toast bill just like the one we passed 3 months ago, and the only people who will suffer will be the American people.

#### GENETIC PRIVACY IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I believe the issue of genetic privacy is of the utmost importance. With new forms of genetic testing, we will be able to test an individual's likelihood of contracting a number of diseases. The possibilities that arise that employers and health insurance can use this information to discriminate is out there.

This is a civil rights issue and a civil rights issue we should be concerned with. People who are already at risk due to their genetic makeup should not have to worry about the additional hardship of losing their job or health insurance.

The Republican Congress and the bill we passed yesterday included for the first time in human history the words "genetic information." That is part of the bill that the gentleman from Illinois, DENNIS HASTERT, prepared as special task master to bring health care to the House floor, and we now have the words "genetic information" so that no one can be discriminated against because of genetic information.

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And I think all of our colleagues and all of the people across this country should realize for the first time in human history, we now have those words in the bill and we are making a start.

#### MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE FINALLY COMES TO HOUSE FLOOR

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to retire I understand there are some wags around here who keep saying that will be a big mouth to fill. But this is a day when I am very proud of my big mouth and I am very proud of the results that we have seen, because the Republicans kept fiddling while the average working American got burned. There was no way they wanted to deal with the minimum wage, absolutely no way. And for 18 months they stalled.

Well, big mouths like myself went to work, and today we get to put out the fire. Today we get to finally get the minimum wage up here, which is so terribly important for so many mothers who are out there working on it. The majority of the people and more than a majority under minimum wage are women.

This is indeed a good day, and I wish everybody would put their big mouth to work on the right thing. When they finally do, they finally cave.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3448, SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

(Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 503 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 503

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3448) to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that Act. All points of order against the con-

ference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I see the distinguished gentleman from Boston, MA [Mr. MOAKLEY] sitting over there. It seems like only yesterday that we spent all day together, and all night too. I yield him the customary 30 minutes, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for debate purposes only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 503 is a typical rule for a conference report. It waives all points of order against the conference report, and it provides that the conference report shall be considered as read as usual.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that the House and Senate conferees were able to put together this bipartisan bill. They put partisanship behind them and reported a bill that raises the minimum wage in a responsible way by offsetting the additional costs to small business through tax relief, and is so important.

As one who ran a small business before coming to this body, I am particularly pleased that we are making a much needed effort to give some tax relief to hard working people who run these small businesses and provide most of the new jobs.

The small business provisions included in the conference report include an increase in the amount small businesses can expense, which will make it easier to start up and expand a small business. The provisions also include modifications of the rules governing subchapter S corporations, which is the way that many small businesses get along, and raise capital.

For example, it will increase from 35 to 75 the number of shareholders an S corporation may have, and the bill would permit S corporations to have wholly owned subsidiaries as well.

The small business relief also include much-needed pension simplification provisions, which are intended to strengthen and to encourage retirement plans for employees of small businesses. There are several other provisions designed to encourage and protect jobs as well.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a rural district that has many, many small businesses. They are an important part of the economy in my district just like some of the large Fortune 500's are an important part of the economy of the country. I know how difficult it is to start up and maintain a small business. Many small businesses fail before the first year is even over, and that is why they need to be able to utilize all of their operating capital early.

But even with all the difficulties, small businesses create more jobs than any other type of business in America.